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November 2011



Nell Painter starts 2011-12 Presidential Lecture Series

Dr. Nell Irvin Painter, a leading historian of the United States, opened up the 2011-12 Morehead State University’s Presidential Lecture Series on Monday, Oct. 3. She presented “Art and Truth in African-American History.”

Dr. Painter is the Edwards Professor of American History Emerita at Princeton University. In addition to her doctorate in history from Harvard University, she has received honorary doctorates from Wesleyan, Dartmouth, SUNY-New Paltz, and Yale.



Alex Taylor named 2011 Chaffin Award winner

MSU’s Department of English and the Kentucky Folk Art Center (KFAC) have announced that Alex Taylor, author of the short story collection “The Name of the Nearest River,” was the recipient of the 2011 Thomas and Lillie D. Chaffin Award for Appalachian Writing.

A celebration honoring Taylor was held Saturday, Oct. 1, at the Kentucky Folk Art Center.

Morehead State sets enrollment record of 10,235

Morehead State University set a record for fall enrollment headcount of 10,235 students, President Wayne D. Andrews announced. This represents a 15.8 percent increase over fall 2010. The previous record of 9,509 students was set in fall 2003.

Fall enrollment is being bolstered by an 18.2 percent increase in first-time freshmen on campus. This fall, MSU’s Class of 2015 grew by more than 215 additional freshmen compared to last year. Improved student retention is also contributing to the record enrollment. From fall 2004 to fall 2010, the retention rate of first-time freshmen increased from 61 percent to nearly 73 percent, Dr. Andrews noted. “We are very pleased with the progress we are making in student retention but will not be satisfied until that critical measure of student success exceeds 80 percent.

The fall number also includes record enrollment in the Early College Program which enables academically qualified students to dual enroll in college-level courses during their junior and senior years of high school. While MSU has offered dual enrollment opportunities for several years, the efforts to enhance and expand the Early College Program were a direct initiative in support of Senate Bill 1 passed by the General Assembly in 2009 to strengthen the college-going rate of Kentucky high school graduates and to better align the curriculum between K-12 and postsecondary education.

“The Early College Program is an incredible opportunity for high school students to be better prepared as they enter postsecondary education as full-time university students,” said Dr. Andrews. “The program not only allows them to get a jump-start on courses reducing their time to degree but also increases affordability. It is possible for a student to complete as many as 24 lower-division college credit hours prior to graduating from high school and do it at no cost to the student.” Nearly 1,600 students from 31 high schools are participating in Early College in the fall 2011 term.

The number of students choosing to attend MSU isn’t the only area where the University has experienced growth and improvement over last year. “We are especially pleased that along with the increase in the size of the freshman class, the average ACT composite score has also improved to 21.8,” said Jeffrey Liles, assistant vice president for enrollment services.

The University’s campus community is also more diverse this fall. The number of minority students seeking a degree increased by 26.2 percent during the past year and represents 5 percent of the total student population.



Seven inducted into Halls of Fame; Lucille Caudill Little honored during Homecoming

The 2011 Homecoming Banquet was held on Friday, Oct. 21, in the Crager Room of the Adron Doran University Center (ADUC).

Alumni and Athletic Halls of Fame inductees were installed and the 2011 Founders Award for University Service was presented, posthumously, to Lucille Caudill Little.

The inductees for the Alumni Hall were Larry Cordle (75); Dr. Ann Lake Greenwell (74); and The Rev. Marlon Longacre (86). The inductees for the Athletic Hall were: Val Falcone (74); Josh Teater (01); Harlan "Fats" Tolle (57); and Diane (Long) Wetherill (81).

Little was a teacher, singer, actress, director and philanthropist. She gave of herself to improve the educational and cultural life in eastern Kentucky. During her lifetime, her generous contributions were numerous. On the campus, the Caudill College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences, the Little Bell Tower and the Little Theatre all bear her name.

The W. Paul and Lucille Little Foundation has provided multiple millions of dollars for arts and arts education at Morehead State. Most recently, MSU received a \$2.5 million grant from the Little Foundation to establish the W. Paul and Lucille Caudill Little Endowment for Study of the Arts, which will provide scholarships for MSU students primarily from Rowan or Elliott counties who pursue a baccalaureate degree in art, music and theatre.

Career Fair breaks record

MSU held its annual Fall Career Fair on Tuesday, Oct. 4, with a record 72 employers and graduate schools participating. More than 250 students, alumni and community members were able to network with employers and graduate programs with the hope of landing an interview for an internship, part-time or full-time position.



"Journey Stories" exhibit opens at Kentucky Folk Art Center

MSU's Kentucky Folk Art Center has announced the opening of a new exhibition "Journey Stories." The exhibition will be on display at KFAC through Dec. 3.

"The history of America is about the movement of peoples," said Adrian Swain, KFAC artistic director.

"Journey Stories" is a Museum on Main Street exhibition. The program is a partnership between the Smithsonian Institution and the state humanities councils nationwide, including the Kentucky Humanities Council.

The story of how transportation has shaped American society is complicated, but it tells us much about who we are – people who see our societal mobility as a means for asserting our individual freedom. "Journey Stories" will use engaging images with audio and artifacts to tell the individual stories that illustrate the critical roles travel and movement have played in building our diverse American society.

"This exhibition is an exceptional educational opportunity for schools in our region. And, we have already worked with a number of schools whose students told their own journey stories. I would encourage teachers to contact us or come by and view the exhibition to see how it could be useful for their students," said Matt Collinsworth, KFAC director.

Kentucky Folk Art Center is a cultural, educational and economic development service of Morehead State University. The Center is open Monday-Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, call 606-783-2204 or go to www.kyfolkart.org.